

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement sheet includes a change to FIG. 5. The designation "PRIOR ART" has been added.

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 6-12 are pending in this application. Claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 12 has been newly added.

Objection to the drawings

The drawings are objected to. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested in view of the replacement FIG. 5 submitted herewith, bearing the designation "PRIOR ART". No new matter has been added.

Claim rejections

Section 112

Claims 7, 8 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph. The Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection in view of the amendments set forth above.

Section 102

Claims 1-4 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Heizmann (US 5,022,281). The Applicant respectfully traverses. Heizmann does not support the rejection for at least the reason that Heizmann does not disclose "said planar four-bar linkage mechanism being defined by a parallelogram including four connecting portions which are positioned at respective four corners of said parallelogram," as recited in claim 1. Instead, Heizmann only discloses a trapezoidal four-bar linkage mechanism.

Claims 2-4 and 6-8 depend on claim 1 and are therefore likewise allowable over Heizmann for at least the foregoing reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Section 103

Claims 5 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heizmann in view of Marks' Standard Handbook for Engineers (10th ed. 1996) ("Marks"). The Applicant respectfully traverses. Heizmann and Marks cannot support the asserted rejection for at least the reason that they do not disclose or suggest "said planar four-bar linkage mechanism being defined by a parallelogram including four connecting portions which are positioned at respective four corners of said parallelogram," as recited in claim 1, which limitations are incorporated into claims 5 and 10 by dependency. Heizmann only discloses a trapezoidal arrangement, as discussed previously. The Examiner alleges that Marks discloses a parallelogram, but this is not apparent from the copy of Marks provided. The Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate the disclosure of a parallelogram in Marks.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 9 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heizmann in view of Kataumi. The Applicant respectfully traverses. Like Heizmann, Kataumi does not disclose or suggest "said planar four-bar linkage mechanism being defined by a parallelogram including four connecting portions which are positioned at respective four corners of said parallelogram," as recited in claim 1, which limitations are incorporated into claims 9 and 11 by dependency. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

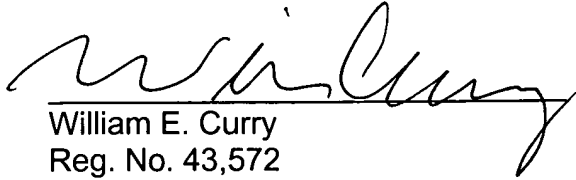
In light of the above discussion, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in all aspects in allowable condition, and earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4323 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 25, 2006

By:


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